Maſter Page. Wife bid theſe gentlemen welcome: come, we haue a hot Veniſon paſty to dinner; Come gentlemen, I hope we ſhall drinke downe all vnkindneſſe.

Slen. I had rather then forty ſhillings I had my booke of Songs and Sonnets heere: How now *Simple*, where haue you beene? I muſt wait on my ſelfe, muſt I? you haue not the booke of Riddles about you, haue you?

Sim. Booke of Riddles? why did you not lend it to *Alice Short-cake* vpon Alhallowmas laſt, a fortnight afore Michaelmas.

Shal. Come Coz, come Coz, wee ſtay for you: a word with you Coz: marry this there is as 'twere a tender, a kinde of tender, made a farre-off by Sir *Hugh* here: doe you vnderſtand me?

Slen. I Sir, you ſhall finde me reaſonable, if it be ſo, I ſhall doe that that is reaſon.

Shal. Nay, but vnderſtand me:

Slen. So I doe Sir.

Euan. Giue eare to his motions: (*Maſter Slender*) I will deſcription the matter to you, if you be capacity of it.

Slen. Nay, I will doe as my Cozen *Shallow* ſaies: I pray you pardon me, he's a Iuſtice of Peace in his Countrie, ſimple though I ſtand here.

Euan. But that is not the queſtion: the queſtion is concerning your marriage.

Shal. I, there's the point Sir.

Eu. Marry is it: the very point of it, to Miſt. *Anne Page*.

Slen. Why if it be ſo; I will marry her vpon any reaſonable demands.

Eu. But can you affection the 'oman, let vs command to know that of your mouth, or of your lips: for diuers Philoſophers hold, that the lips is parcell of the mouth: therefore precisely, can you carry your good will to the maide?

Shal. Cozen *Abraham Slender*, can you loue her?

Slen. I hope ſir, I will doe as it ſhall become one that would doe reaſon.

Euan. Nay, got's Lords, and his Ladies, you muſt ſpeake poſſitable,

poſſitable, if you can carry-her your deſires towards her.

Shal. That you muſt.

Will you, (vpon good dowry) marry her?

Slen. I will doe a greater thing then that, vpon your requeſt (Coſen) in any reaſon.

Shal. Nay conceiue mee, conceiue mee, (ſweet Coz) what I doe is to pleaſure you (Coz) can you loue the maid?

Slen. I will marry her (Sir) at your requeſt; but if there be no great loue in the beginning, yet Heauen may decreaſe it vpon better acquaintance, when wee are married and haue more occaſion to know one another; I hope vpon familiarity will grow more content; but if you ſay mary-her, I will mary-her, that I am freely diſſolued and diſſolutely.

Euan. It is a fery diſcretion-anſwere; ſaue the fall is in the 'ord, diſſolutely; the ort is (according to our meaning) reſolutely: his meaning is good.

Sh. I, I thinke my Coſen meant well.

Slen. I or elſe I would I might be hang'd (la.)

Sh. Here comes faire Miſtris *Anne*; would I were yong for your ſake, Miſtris *Anne*.

An. The dinner is on the Table, my Father deſires your worſhips company.

Sh. I will wait on him, (faire Miſtris *Anee*.

Euan. Od's pleſſed-will; I will not be abſence at the grace.

An. Wil't pleaſe your worſhip to come in, Sir?

Sl. No, I thanke you forſooth, hartely; I am very well.

An. The dinner attends you Sir.

Sl. I am not a-hungry, I thanke you, forſooth; go Sirha, for all you are my man, goe waite vpon my Coſen *Shallow*; a Iuſtice of peace ſometime may be beholding to his friend, for a Man; I keepe but three Men and a Boy yet till my Mother be dead; but what though, yet I liue like a poore Gentleman borne.

An. I may not goe in without your worſhip; they will not ſit till you come.